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Front Page Edit Other Page 2B

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Date:

Potomac Patter

Dulles' Brother Is Sociable Fellow; He Can Enjoy Party And Spy, Too

By ANDREW TULLY
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer
WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—

These are days when our spies are working overtime to find out what the Russians are up to, and Allen Dulles, boss of the Central Intelligence Agency, is reminded of the time he passed up a really ripe interview during World War I.

Dulles was doing some intelligence errands then in Switzerland. During an especially busy period, he was asked if he wanted to talk to a Russian odd-ball with a beard.

HE CHECKED with some other U. S. officials and then decided to pass up the meeting as a waste of time.

Several weeks later, Dulles' face turned a bright red when he discovered the Russian was a fellow named Nicolai Lenin, who had been en route to Russia to join the revolution.

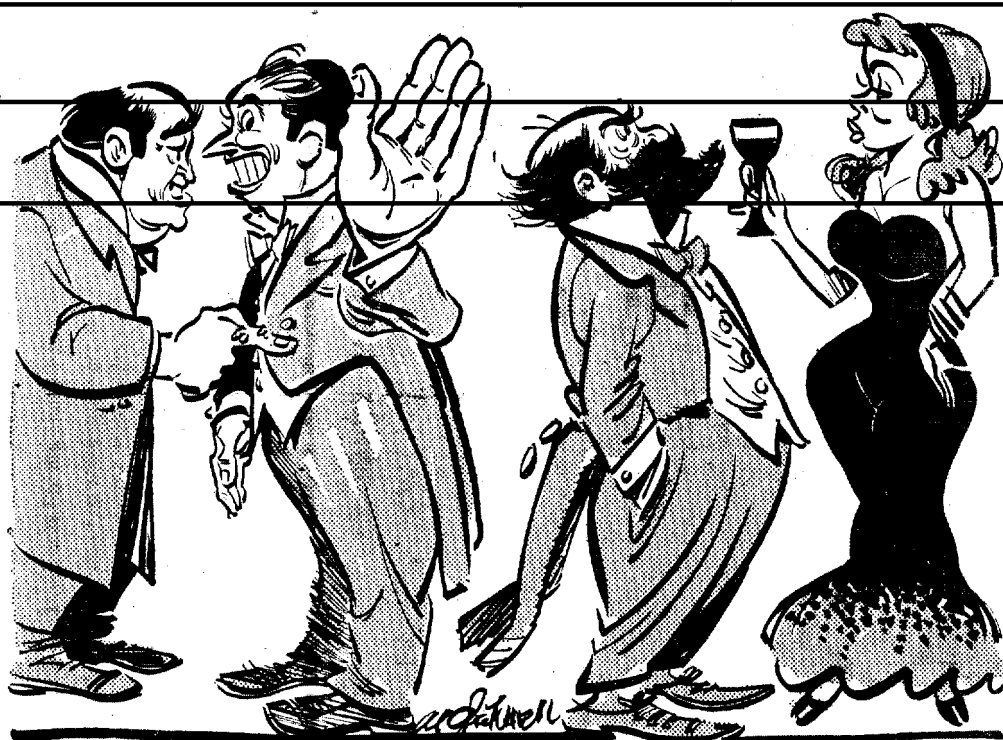
Like School Chief

AT 63, DULLES is kid brother to Secretary of State John Foster, but he's a much more sociable guy. Allen turns up at lots of Washington cocktail parties, where his Ivy League grin seems to mark him as a school headmaster.

He says he does his partying to relax, but there are those who darkly insist that, with his disarming air, he often picks up a choice bit of espionage material.

NOBODY KNOWS how many employees Dulles has—guesses range from 8000 to 30,000—and some claim they work in at least 30 buildings here.

CIA's budget is never made public, since it goes to Congress complete with requests of other agencies; it could run as high as \$500 million a year.



Allen Dulles, 63, says he goes to parties to relax, but there are those who insist that, with his disarming air, he often picks up a choice bit of espionage material.

Frantic Struggle

DAY AFTER the \$100,000 Washington International at the Laurel horse track, the papers were full of elegant reports about how high society flocked to see Master Boing of France run away from the field.

But the fact is high society must be getting frugal; the number of \$2 bets set a record and all afternoon it was a frantic struggle to get a place in the lines to the \$2 windows.

SNOBBERY HIT a peculiar high during the afternoon's antics. Early in the program, a Washington doll who shall be nameless hurried breathlessly to the back of the room and shrieked at her husband, "I've just been mingling in royal circles!"

Hubby had a tough time getting her calmed down sufficiently to learn that his wife had just been introduced to a fellow named Major Foster "who is veterinary to Queen Elizabeth!"

Note: Major Foster was on hand to minister to Le Pretendant, Sir Winston Churchill's horse — which finished last.

Diplomat Boycott

IT WAS DULY noticed in print that the United States, Great Britain and France boycotted the Soviet Embassy's "October Revolution" shindig — held in November. But few noticed that that great bleeding heart of the neutrals, India, had ignored the occasion.

This seemed really calculated, too.

ALTHOUGH ANY diplomat who can pronounce protocol knows the Reds always celebrate on Nov. 7, Indian Ambassador Gaganvihari Lalubhai Mehta scheduled a cocktail party at his own embassy on that date—in honor of a committee planning a Southeast Asia Fashion Show.

Note: Soviet Ambassador Georgi Zaroubin and Mrs. Zaroubin received under a big portrait of Stalin. Georgi told nosy reporters, "We just don't have any picture of Premier Bulganin." You figure it out.

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It'll Cost Warren

NO MATTER WHO wins, the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia Dec. 1 is going to cost Chief Justice Earl Warren a flock of dough.

The Chief Justice is hiring a private railroad car to take all the court members and their wives to the game. What with game tickets and refreshments, it figures to set him back around \$300.

Prized Autograph

GEN. ALFRED Maximilian Gruenther, who's just been named head of the Red Cross, is a tough soldier who works his men hard. But he's human, too, as shown by a story recalled by his old pals here this week.

Shortly after the end of World War II, Gen. Gruenther attended a national bridge tournament in Atlantic City. He invited the walking patients of a nearby veterans' hospital to join him for a bull session first.

WHEN A TOURNAMENT official checked to see what was keeping his guest, he found the General busy scribbling his autograph for the veterans.

"Don't you know that those are week-end passes you're signing?" asked the official.

"Nonsense," said Gen. Gruenther. "They look like bridge scorecards to me." And went right on writing.

Blame Calendar

Now don't start getting excited because Thanksgiving Day seems to be coming earlier than usual this year. Unlike Franklin D. Roosevelt, President Eisenhower is not monkeying with tradition.

When Ike's Thanksgiving proclamation named Nov. 22 as Turkey Day, he was merely obeying a law passed in 1941 which fixed the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

For many years, Thanksgiving came on the last Thursday of the month. Then, in 1939, Mr. Roosevelt decided on an earlier date after listening to the arguments of businessmen it would be good for the trade because it'd give people a head start on their Christmas shopping.

THE HUE AND CRY was terrific. Some statesmen wanted to impeach FDR, and several states refused to observe the early holiday. So two years later, Congress stepped in and passed a law to protect the day from further presidential tinkering.

But the fourth Thursday is the one FDR picked, too, because in that November of 1939, there also were five Thursdays.